Eudora Parks & Recreation Dept. Gary Scott 785-542-2226 April 7, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trees are Treemendous to Eudora, KS.

Nebraska City, NE—Eudora, KS has been recognized by the Kansas Forest Service and the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA Community. Ceremonies were held in Nebraska City to pay tribute and recognize the 104 Kansas Communities that are actively managing their community forest. Eudora is being recognized as a Tree City USA for the first year.

To qualify for Tree City USA a community must designate a tree board or department by municipal ordinance to operate the program, have an annual budget of \$2 per capita and participate in Arbor Day with a proclamation and tree planting ceremony.

"People tend to take trees for granted. That's why Eudora accomplishments in the Tree City USA program are so important. Collectively, Kansas Tree City USA Communities spent over \$18.5 million in 2013 managing Kansas' community forest by planting over 8,584 trees, pruning 56,871 and removing over 20,495 dead or defective trees," said Tim McDonnell, Community Forestry Program Coordinator for the Kansas Forest Service.

"Communities like Eudora are making a difference but they need additional support with funding and volunteers," he said. "Only when community-wide involvement exists will positive change occur in the present trends." McDonnell encourages the people of Eudora to take the time to thank the volunteers who serve on the city's Tree Board and to ask the simple question "How can I help?"

Individuals or organizations interested in further information about trees, the Eudora Tree Board or what you may do to help with community forestry in Eudora may contact Gary Scott, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Tim McDonnell Community Forestry Coordinator Kansas Forest Service 316-788-0492